

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 101741Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7895

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 36645

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT FRANCE:

ATMOSPHERE MAY BE BUSINESSLIKE

1. QUAI'S CHIEF EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DE CALBIAC HAS GIVEN US STRIKINGLY RESERVED RUN-DOWN ON UPCOMING PARIS VISIT OF ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER MANESCU, DECEMBER 14-16.

2. ALTHOUGH FRANCO-ROMANIAN RELATIONS WERE ONCE QUITE PROMISING, QUAI NOW FEELS THEY HAVE DETERIORATED. ADMITTEDLY, ROMANIANS HAVE MADE "IMPRESSIVE EFFORT" IN RESOLVING OVER TWO HUNDRED DIVIDED FAMILY AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN CASES IN RECENT MONTHS--PARTLY IN RESPONSE  
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TO PERSISTENT AND EMBARRASSING MANIFESTATIONS BEFORE

THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY HERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, QUAI LISTS LONG CATALOGUE OF FRENCH COMPLAINTS. ALTHOUGH GOR SENDS LIPATTI AROUND EUROPE TO TALK UP CSCE, THE REGIME IS IN FACT TIGHTENING UP INTERNALLY. MOREOVER, THE FRENCH CONTINUE TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH ROMANIA'S SUBSTANTIVE CSCE CONCEPTIONS, FOR BELGRADE AND FOR POST-BELGRADE PROJECTS, WHICH ARE TOO AMBITIOUS. THERE IS ALSO FRICTION IN THE CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION FIELD, WHICH QUAI SAYS IS NOT WORKING VERY WELL. QUAI HAS FURTHER BEEN IRRITATED BY CASES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE IN WHICH ROMANIANS HAVE REPORTEDLY RENEGED ON PROMISES TO GIVE VISAS TO PEOPLE TO WHOM FRENCH HAD ALREADY OFFERED FELLOWSHIPS. CONTRIBUTING TO APPARENT MALAISE IS PERSON OF ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR FLITAN, WHOM QUAI CONSIDERS MALADROIT AND OVERLY PERSISTENT EAGER BEAVER.

3. DE CALBIAC ADMITS THAT THESE IRRITATIONS CONTINUE TO BE BALANCED BY FRENCH RECOGNITION OF ROMANIA'S INDEPENDENT ROLE, ALTHOUGH EVEN ON THIS SCORE HE NOTED UNCERTAINTIES AS TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH ROMANIANS MAY RECENTLY HAVE INFLECTED THEMSELVES TOWARDS MOSCOW'S LINE. QUAI IS ALSO SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED BY CERTAIN MODEST RECENT GROWTH IN COMMERCIAL FIELD.

4. EVEN SO, DE CALBIAC DESCRIBED MANESCU'S UPCOMING VISIT IN UNUSUALLY RESERVED TERMS. WE OURSELVES EXPECT THAT PRIME MINISTER BARRE'S INTRINSIC AFFABILITY, COUPLED WITH FACT THAT THIS WILL BE FIRST EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTERPART TO VISIT HIM IN PARIS, WILL MAKE FOR MORE CORDIAL RECEPTION THAN QUAI PROJECTS.  
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